



Northern Transcontinental Survey

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC BOTANY

Wm. M. Canby, in charge.

Wilmington, Del. July 22 1884

Dear Dr. Hay,

I went to Philadelphia yesterday to see about the proposed Southern tour but found that the people I wanted to see were out of town and so accomplished nothing. In about a week I will try it again.

Having to go to the Academy I looked up the specimens there pertaining to the *Lonicera gata*, etc. At first I regretted that I had not looked up previously, your notice in the May Bulletin having entirely forgotten the tour of your remarks. Afterwards I was glad I had not and could then examine the specimens entrusted by your views. I found no specimens in the "North American Herb." In Short's Herb. there is a sheet marked *L. gata* which contains three specimens, and two labels well mixed up. Two of the former ~~are~~ evidently belong to *L. sempervirens* and with these I should put a strip of paper marked "Dr. Hale". The other label was David Donnell ("Lonicera gata etc") and I suppose belongs to the third specimen. I made as careful an examination ^{of the} of this as I could without making and dissecting the specimens and came to

the conclusion that it did not differ materially from the European specimens of *L. Caprifolium*. I think you say in the "Manual" "flaves, smooth" - but they are pubescent in this and other specimens to be spoken of presently just as the flowers of *L. Caprifolium* are. While comparing with the latter in the "General Herbs" I found two sheets marked *L. grata*. One of these contained (with some *L. sempervivens*) 2 specimens, equally well corresponding with *L. Caprifolium* as far as I could discern, which were pasted fastened to the sheet with slips and underneath marked, apparently by Collins, "New York Locust". The other sheet contained three or four specimens much like these with no note of collector or locality unless there was a scrap marked, No. 4th.

All these specimens varied so slightly from those of *L. Caprifolium* from Europe that my feeling was that they should be referred to that species. Indeed I am willing to hazard the conjecture that all the plants from which these and the Chester County specimens were gathered were derived from those planted in some old gardens. The vine has ceased to be planted and consequently no "escapes" can now be found.

The flowers of *L. Prichyrenum* are described as having a "delicious odor" in our English Botany but nothing is said about those of *L. Caprifolium*.

Sincerely Yours
W. M. Curtis